



## NEWS RELEASE

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# NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOLS GRADUATE 9 OF EVERY 10 SENIORS IN 2015

Nebraska public high schools graduated nine of every 10 seniors in 2015, setting a nearly 89 percent graduation rate.

That 89 percent graduation rate represents a slight decrease from the nearly 90 percent graduation rate set the previous year, according to data released today by the Nebraska Department of Education.

The public school graduation rate has, overall, steadily improved since 2011 when 86.1 percent of the high school seniors graduated in four years.

Year*	4-Year Grad Rate	# Graduates
2011	86.12	19313
2012	87.63	19317
2013	88.49	19389
2014	89.66	19493
2015	88.89	19432

*\*As required by the U.S. Department of Education, Nebraska began reporting graduation rates by the Four-Year Cohort method in 2011.*

“While the substantive change is less than 1 percent and slight changes are expected, year-to-year, we will continue to closely watch the state’s graduation rate as we focus on graduating at least 90 percent of our high school students in four years,” Nebraska Education Commissioner Matt Blomstedt said, commenting on new 2015 data. “Today we applaud the hard work of our high school seniors and their teachers considering that Nebraska public schools continue to have one of the highest graduation rates in the nation.”

The most current report available from the National Center for Educational Statistics showed Nebraska, Texas, Vermont and Wisconsin ranked second nationally in 2012 with an 88 percent graduation rate, compared to Iowa with the top graduation rate of 89 percent.

The Nebraska 2015 report released today also showed that 91.8 percent or 19,987 of the state's high school seniors graduated in five years and that 92.1 percent or 20,222 graduated in six years, with both of those rates improving from the previous year.

"Nebraska schools focus on keeping all students in school and helping each student every day to graduate and reach their career and education goals despite the academic struggles and sometimes challenging circumstance some students have," Blomstedt said.

This year, the overall graduation rate decreased for Nebraska seniors in some racial and ethnic groups as well as students living in poverty and students with special needs.

For more detailed information on the new graduation data, see the updated 2014-15 State of the Schools Report at: <http://www.education.ne.gov/> or <http://reportcard.education.ne.gov>.